

An Open Letter To President Nixon

January 17, 1972

President Richard M. Nixon
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In my files is a letter from you thanking me for my service, much of it full time, as chairman of the Volunteers for Nixon during your campaign for the Presidency. Shortly after your renomination, I shall be explaining to the newspapers why this time I shall be campaigning actively for your defeat. It seems only proper that I state to you the reasons for my defection.

I count myself a reasonably patriotic American. In World War II, I served overseas for three years — in my concluding assignment, directing psychological warfare operations on General Dwight D. Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters staff in Europe. But today I find myself ashamed of the position of my country in the Middle East.

I have walked through Egyptian hospitals and seen row on row of beds of little children, their bodies burned black by American-made napalm dropped from American-built planes in claimed "defense" of Israel. I have sat in shelters in a dozen refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank, in Jordan and in Lebanon, hearing at first-hand the accounts of Palestinian Arabs who have been ruthlessly forced from the land upon which they and their forefathers had lived for hundreds of years, driven into cruel exile by an alien army recruited in Europe and America. That army, more powerful today than ever, and endowed with American material and financial support, has by pure aggression increased Israel's land area 18-fold from the Peel Commission plan, 4-fold in the 1967 Six Day War alone.

I have talked with United Nations personnel who have reported their proven findings of the brutal physical torture of Arab prisoners in Israel. I have talked with the personnel of the International Red Cross in Geneva who confirm that they are not allowed to interview those who are thus being "detained and interrogated." I have talked with a leading Israeli lawyer who charges that 80% of all prisoners are tortured. I have talked with the foreign press corps in Israel who complain that they haven't been allowed inside an Israeli prison for more than two years, that every word they write is subject to the strictest censorship and nothing critical is allowed to be sent out. I have talked with Jewish members of the Israel League for Human and Civil Rights and have seen their terrifying statistics of human torture, of mass demolition of Arab homes and wholesale deportation of the indigenous population — all gross violations of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The knowledge that my country's moral and material support of this politico/military monster is all that keeps it going is a matter of shame and embarrassment to me, Mr. President.

When I read in the Jerusalem press a statement by a senior Israeli government official that "we know that we can take care of the Arabs, but we need to know whether the United States can take care of the Russians," I am heartily ashamed of the part I played in helping to elect an Administration that deliberately allows this renegade member of the world community to lead us inexorably down the road to the ultimate disaster of a nuclear confrontation with the Soviets.

When I read that you have pliantly acted in accordance with Congressional "resolutions" calling upon you to give all-out support to Israel, however intransigent it may be and however defiant of U.N. decisions on Jerusalem, and then I observe in the Congressional Quarterly the fees which the



Richard Dayan Nixon

**American President and Commander-in-Chief
— Israel's Best General.**

sponsors of the resolutions have received from Zionist sources for their infamous services, I weep for my country and its future. Washington columnist Joseph Alsop reports that with one exception, "every liberal senator receives more than half of his campaign contributions from Zionist sources." In the Forrestal Diaries, the former Secretary of Defense expressed his concern that "one group in this country should be permitted to influence our policy to the point where it could endanger our national security. It is a disastrous and regrettable fact that the foreign policy of this country is determined by contributions a particular block of special interests make to the party funds." NEWSWEEK a few weeks ago reported that "100 of the nation's most influential Jewish leaders have announced plans to convene in Washington next week to push for a resumption of weapons' sales to Jerusalem. In talks with top Republicans, the Jewish leaders are expected to underscore the importance of Jewish support for Mr. Nixon's re-election next year." It is a sad measure of the degree of our fall from grace that our foreign policy can now be bought for a few shekels.

Your "even-handedness" toward the Arabs may provoke smiles at the United Nations, but to the Arab Middle East it is far from a joke. I predict that an oil-short United States will one day pay a huge price for the fantastically inept foreign policy with which your Administration has indulged itself in that area of the world. Virtually every American ambassador stationed in the Middle East since 1943 warned explicitly against backing Zionism because it was the Achilles heel through which the Soviets would advance their interests in the area. You would do well to recall John F. Kennedy's admonition that "American partisanship in the Arab-Israeli conflict is dangerous both to the United States and the free world." Contrast your position with that of Dwight Eisenhower who, in 1956, unhesitatingly put principle above politics and ordered not only Israel but a powerful Britain and France to surrender what they had seized in the Middle East. I respectfully remind you that he left office honored by the entire world. How would he judge YOUR policy today?

Equally lamentable is your persistent refusal to acknowledge the existence of the Palestinian Arabs and to give your support to their efforts to bring some kind of order out of the chaos. Ignoring the obvious fact that the Suez Canal, Sharm el Shaik, Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are simply peripheral problems which will NEVER be solved until the basic problem of Palestinian nationalism is solved, you and your Administration have four times rejected overtures made on behalf of a representative group of responsible Palestinians.

Over the past year, I have had occasion frequently to applaud and support your domestic economic policies in my radio and television commentaries. In that area you have done an excellent job. Why, then, am I not going to support you in the coming campaign? Because I am convinced that if you continue your present foreign policy of blind support for Israel which in the U.N. has isolated us from the rest of the world community, there won't BE any United

States, economically sound or otherwise. With consummate skill and cunning, the Israeli government which we have imposed upon the peoples of the Middle East is turning its conflict with the Arabs into a confrontation between our country and Russia. If they cannot have their own way, they are quite prepared to spark an Armageddon which will destroy us all.

Perhaps future scholars researching your official papers will discover the reasons which have impelled you to adopt policies so contrary to our country's best interests in the Middle East. Certainly those reasons are not now apparent. When the American dollar was in its deepest trouble abroad, Bank Leumi of Israel made a financial killing trading millions of U.S. dollars for German marks for its own account. On what grounds does your Administration justify handing them hundreds of millions of additional dollar credits? The over-enthusiastic receptions given Prime Minister Meir by your Administration stand in marked contrast to the reception given American citizens in Israel — the American consul in Jerusalem has confirmed to me that in a recent single week the consulate received more than fifty complaints from American citizens who had been beaten up and/or imprisoned without charges by Israeli police.

Why are we giving Israel such blind support? To save the Middle East from Communism? But it is Israel which has brought a Communist presence into the area. Because it is our policy to support democratic regimes? What is democratic about a regime which is bound by its "fundamental" laws to discriminate against people, not because they are Christians or Muslims, but simply because they are NOT Jews? What is democratic about a country with a parliament not one member of which has been elected by the people but whose members are instead appointed to their posts by political party bosses? What is democratic about a regime in which the Sephardic Jews who constitute 60% of the total population are "represented" by only 15% of the parliamentary seats? What is democratic about a system which uses our dollar credits and tax-deductible United Jewish Appeal funds to support a growing body of "fat cats" living a life of luxury while thousands of their Sephardic Jewish and Arabic fellow citizens exist in unspeakable slum conditions?

In the refugee camps, two million displaced Palestinians who BELIEVED Wilson's Fourteen Points, who BELIEVED the Covenant of the League of Nations, who BELIEVED the Charter of the United Nations — all of which guaranteed them their freedom and independence — wait and hope pathetically for justice from what was once the greatest nation on earth, apparently unaware that the nation has become a dancing bear, responding dumbly to the commands given it directly by the government of Israel and indirectly through a potent Fifth Column which operates here in America and which gives blind obedience to the Zionist credo that all Jews everywhere owe national loyalty to Israel, a loyalty which is enjoined upon "the Jewish people" everywhere by the so-called "Status Law" enacted by the Knesset in 1952. What is our world image in the light of the recent Zionist announcement that in the year 1971, more than 10,000 American Jews "fled" to Israel to escape persecution, their passage paid by the Jewish Agency from tax-deductible American "charitable" contributions to the United Jewish Appeal?

In summary, Mr. President, I find your Middle East policy intolerable. That is why I shall work vigorously for your defeat, giving the widest possible dissemination to my reasons. The defection may be of small consequence, of course. On the other hand, when I was asked to serve in your campaign, someone must have assumed that I was capable of influencing others. I shall try my best to do that, hoping that thereby I may help my country regain some measure of its self respect.

Respectfully Yours,
NORMAN F. DACEY